The Brownwood Marsh Restoration Project: A Successful Effort To Restore and Create Wetland Habitat

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The Brownwood Marsh Restoration Project is in the tidal segment of the San Jacinto River near Baytown, Texas. The project provides for the replacement of natural resources injured, destroyed, or lost as a result of releases of hazardous substances at or from the French Limited Superfund Site near Crosby, Texas. In 1994, after an extensive site-selection study, a French Limited Task Force signed an agreement with the City of Baytown which allowed for the creation of an approximately 60 acre wetland system in the area formerly occupied by the condemned Brownwood Subdivision. A state and federal agency review group helped select and approve the marsh creation project. Construction began in November 1994 and was completed in June 1995. Monitoring shows the wetland ecosystem is currently healthy and most of the vegetation is thriving. This successful project illustrated how a coordinated effort between many groups can benefit the natural resources in the Galveston Bay system.

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